

MEETING #36 July 31

At a Workshop Meeting of the Madison Board of Supervisors on Thursday, July 31, 2008
at 2:00 p.m., in the Thrift Road Conference Room:

PRESENT: Eddie Dean, Chairman, Eddie Dean
James L. Arrington, Chairman
William L. Crigler, Member
Clark Powers, Member
Lisa R. Kelley, County Administrator

ABSENT: Bob Miller, Member
V. R. Shackelford, III, County Attorney

Chairman, Eddie Dean called the meeting to order and noted that a
Quorum was present.

SUMMARY OF TOPICS

RPACS for Interoperability:

Robert Finks, E-911 Coordinator, informed the Board that the state has formed regional preparedness advisory committees (RPACs) and that these committees will become responsible for ranking applications for state interoperability grants. Madison County is in Region II (Culpeper). In order to participate in the decision-making process, each locality is required to designate one voting member.

After discussion, on motion of William L. Crigler, seconded by Clark Powers, the Board voted to designate the Director of Emergency Communications as the County's voting member on the

Eddie Dean	Aye
James L. Arrington	Aye
William L. Crigler	Aye
Bob Miller	Absent
Clark Powers	Aye

Emergency Radio System:

Robert Finks, E-911 Coordinator, addressed the Board about the FCC's Narrowbanding Mandate. Public safety and other entities licensed by the FCC for privately operated land mobile radio (PLMR) VHF and UHF frequency bands have traditionally operated on channel bandwidths of 25 kHz. The FCC's narrowbanding mandate requires that, on or before January 1, 2013, all existing licensees must modify their equipment and FCC license to operate on channel bandwidths of 12.5 kHz or less.

Narrowbanding does not require moving to an 800 MHz system or another band, and in fact the state performed a study of Madison County's suitability for an 800 MHz system and determined that it would

not be feasible (i.e., implementation of such a system would require upwards of \$33 million and 25 additional towers within the County). The state's recommendation is that the County stay with its present VHF frequency. Therefore, the County must begin a process of transition planning. Mr. Finks has been working with our current vendors (Motorola/Clear Communications) to obtain information about the equipment necessary to comply with the narrowbanding mandate. Additionally, many localities are taking this opportunity to do some longer-term planning, and planning to meet the state's interoperability goals, by evaluating the costs and benefits of upgrading their systems to digital technology. A digital system is more immune from adjacent channel interference, and may offer features unavailable with our current system (for example, simulcast capability). Mr. Finks' recommendation is to have our current vendor provide us with pricing for: (a) the equipment minimally necessary to comply with the narrowbanding requirements, and (b) using the favorable pricing of a digital system that was competitively procured by another County, the cost of implementing a new, digital system. The Board indicated a consensus that Mr. Finks should obtain this cost information and report back to the Board with his recommendations at a later date.

OAR Request for Additional Funding:

Lisa Kelley, County Administrator, informed the Board that Jefferson Area Community Corrections (OAR) recently contacted her to request additional funding. According to Pat Smith, OAR's Executive director, earlier this year when state's Aid to Localities Reductions were sent out to localities, the reductions for the OAR program were entirely included within the reductions for Albemarle County, which serves as the fiscal agent for the nine localities served by OAR. OAR and Albemarle County did not become aware of this until most of the localities had already passed their budgets for FY2009. Ms. Smith has submitted an appeal to all localities seeking a pro rata contribution to make up the \$30,528 reduction, so that Albemarle County will not have to absorb the entire reduction in its own budget. The Board asked the County Administrator to contact the other localities served by the OAR program, to find out whether they have agreed to contribute additional funding, and then report back to the Board at their regular meeting in August.

Sesquicentennial Civil War Committee:

In 2006, the General Assembly created the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission, for the purpose of planning for and commemorating the 150th anniversary of Virginia's participation in the Civil War. The Commission is planning activities to begin in 2009 and continue through 2015. Recently, Mr. Dean was contacted by William J. Howell, Chairman of the

Commission and Speaker of the House of Delegates, who communicated that the Commission believes it is crucial that each county form a local sesquicentennial committee to work with the state Commission, in order to promote Virginia as a premier heritage tourist destination for the sesquicentennial activities. The Board requested the County Administrator to contact the Historical Society and ask for their assistance in organizing the committee requested by Delegate Howell.

With no further discussion or action being required by the Board, on motion of James L. Arrington, seconded by Clark Powers, Chairman, Eddie Dean adjourned the meeting, with the following vote recorded:

Eddie Dean	Aye
James L. Arrington	Aye
William L. Crigler	Aye
Bob Miller	Absent
Clark Powers	Aye

Date: August 13, 2008